



State Library of Massachusetts - Special Collections Department

# Ms. Coll. 151

## Mary E. Grant Papers, 1996-2010: Guide

### COLLECTION SUMMARY

**Creator:** Grant, Mary E.

**Call Number:** Ms. Coll. 151

**Extent:** 2 boxes (2 linear feet)

**Preferred Citation Style:** *Folder Title, Box Number #.* Mary E. Grant Papers. State Library of Massachusetts Special Collections.

**Provenance:** Gift of Mary E. Grant, 2011.

**About This Finding Aid:** Description based on DACS.

**Processed by:** Finding aid prepared by April R. Pierce, May 2011. Updated by Abigail Cramer, March 2012.

**Abstract:** This collection documents Mary E. Grant's terms as a member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives, during which time she addressed issues such as health and human services, education, seniors' rights and education, economic development, transportation, and environmental issues.

### SCOPE AND CONTENT

While Mary E. Grant worked on many different issues during her terms in the House, this collection is almost exclusively related to the same-sex marriage legislation. The bulk of the collection spans from 2004, when legislation was introduced proposing to prohibit the legal recognition of same-sex unions, through 2007, when the second Constitutional Convention defeated a citizen-driven amendment to allow voters to restore the definition of marriage.

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Massachusetts became the first US State to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples, starting May 17, 2004.

A very small fraction of this collection (Series II) contains information related to other topics such as transportation, child advocacy, immigration, terms of office, and the Governor's Council. Many of the items in this series are in VHS or DVD format only.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

Mary E. Grant was a Democratic member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives from 2003-2010, representing the 6th District of Essex County. Grant received her B.S. in Nursing, as well as her M.S. in Community Health Nursing from Boston College. She has worked as a psychiatric nurse for more than twenty-five years. Her areas of expertise include mental health, children and adolescents and psychological trauma with a focus in sexual abuse. She currently lives in Beverly, MA, where she is still very much active in the community.

While in the House of Representatives, she served as Vice-Chair for the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing and was a member of the House Committee on Ways and Means; the Joint Committee on Public Health; the Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities; the Joint Committee on Revenue; the Joint Committee on Development and Small Business; the Joint Committee on Housing and Urban Development; the Joint Committee on Human Services and Elder Affairs; the Board of Directors of the Caucus of Women Legislators; the Health and Human Services Long-Term Care Financing Committee; the Nursing Initiative Task Forces of the Department of Higher Education; and the Quality Initiative Team of the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families.

Her civic duties include being Co-President of the Beverly Main Streets Economic Restructuring Committee, Leadership Council Chair of the North Shore Housing Action Group, a member of the Greater Beverly YMCA Board, the North Shore Elder Services Board, the Beverly High School Site Council, the Greater Beverly Education Roundtable, the North Shore Community Development Coalition Board, the Harborlight Community Partnership Board, the League of Women Voters of Beverly, the City of Beverly Charter Commission, the City of Beverly Ordinance Review Committee, and the Steering Committee of the Beverly Technology Fund.

Grant has received numerous community awards, including Citizen of the Year (Beverly Rotary), 2009 Legislator of the Year (MA Recreation and Parks Association), 2008-2009 Legislator of the Year (YMCA of Massachusetts), as well as multiple certificates of appreciation for her services on the North Shore.

While in office, Grant worked on key issues such as health and human services, education, seniors' rights and education, economic development, transportation, and the environment. As a nurse, she has focused much of her attention on helping to craft and implement the health care laws now in existence in Massachusetts.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

### ***Arrangement***

There are two boxes of folders filed alphabetically by topic. Most of the folders contain manuscripts, correspondence and newspaper clippings. The bulk of information in this collection pertains to same-sex marriage in Massachusetts. The media (VHS, DVD and CD) are located at the end of box 2.

The collection is arranged into two series:

*Series I: Same-Sex Marriage*

*Series II: Miscellaneous Materials*

### ***Conditions Governing Access***

This collection is open for research during the Special Collections Department's regular hours.

### ***Technical Access***

The collection contains eight VHS tapes and four DVD's, which can be viewed on the public access television in the reading room. The collection also contains four audio CD's, and two CD's containing files, which can be accessed via computer with a disc drive.

### ***Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use***

Copyright restrictions may apply. Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be discussed with Special Collections staff.

### ***Languages and Scripts***

Materials are entirely in English.

### ***Immediate Source of Acquisition***

This collection was a gift to the Special Collections Department from Mary E. Grant in 2011.

## ***Detailed Series Description and Container List***

### **Series I: Same-Sex Marriage, 2003-2007.**

#### ***Scope and Content***

This series documents Grant's work on same-sex marriage legislation, mainly in 2004, but also extending through 2007.

#### ***Arrangement***

The materials in this series are arranged roughly chronologically.

#### ***Series I Subseries A: General***

| <b>Box #</b> | <b>Folder Title</b>                                 | <b>Date</b>        |
|--------------|---|--------------------|
| 1            | Correspondence (9 folders)                          | undated, 2003-2007 |
| 1            | SJC Decision H. 3190                                | 2004               |
| 1            | Court Suit: VoteOnMarriage.org v. Dimasi (D. Mass.) | 2006               |
| 1            | Newspaper Clippings (4 folders)                     | 2003-2006          |
| 1            | Literature Supporting Same-Sex Marriage (2 folders) | 2003-2004, 2007    |
| 1            | Literature Against Same-sex Marriage                | 2004-2006          |
| 2            | H. 3190 Definitions of Marriage                     | 2003               |
| 2            | Constitutional Convention (4 folders)               | 2003-2007          |

#### ***Series I Subseries B: Audiovisual Materials***

| <b>Box #</b> | <b>Folder Title</b>                             | <b>Date</b> |
|--------------|---|-------------|
| 2            | "Is Same-Sex Marriage Good for the Nation?" VHS | 2004        |
| 2            | "The Gay Marriage Thing" DVD                    | 2005        |
| 2            | Boston Gay Men's Chorus, audio CD               | 2004        |
| 2            | "No Compromises" DVD                            | undated     |
| 2            | "Same Sex America" DVD                          | 2005        |
| 2            | "Better Angels" DVD                             | 2007        |

## **Series II: Miscellaneous, 1996-2010.**

### ***Scope and Content***

This series includes the items in the collection which are not related to the Same-Sex Marriage legislation.

### ***Arrangement***

The materials in this series are arranged in their original order.

### ***Series II Subseries A: General***

| <b>Box #</b> | <b>Folder Title</b>                          | <b>Date</b> |
|--------------|--|-------------|
| 2            | Administrative Files                         | 2010        |
| 2            | Transportation                               | 2004        |
| 2            | Child Support                                | 2004        |
| 2            | Immigration                                  | 2005        |
| 2            | Initiative Petitions (S. 362)                | 2004        |
| 2            | Judges - selection and appointment (S. 1065) | 2004        |
| 2            | Governor's Council (Amendment 5)             | 2004        |
| 2            | Terms of Office (S. 352)                     | 2004        |
| 2            | Appointment to Office (H. 727)               | 2004        |
| 2            | Boats and Boating                            | 2004        |

### ***Series II Subseries B: Audiovisual***

| <b>Box #</b> | <b>Folder Title</b>   | <b>Date</b> |
|--------------|---|-------------|
| 2            | "The Boston Foundation The Commonwealth Housing Task Force Press Conference 11/11/03" VHS | 2003        |
| 2            | "Speaker's Lyceum Series David Gergen" VHS  | 2004        |
| 2            | "Marijuana Policy Project" VHS  | 2003        |
| 2            | "MADD Massachusetts Youth Summit" VHS   | 2002        |
| 2            | "Back from the Brink Savings America's Cities Design" VHS                                 | 1996        |

|   |  |      |
|---|--|------|
| 2 | "Becoming Good Neighbors: Enriching America's Communities by Design" VHS           | 1998 |
| 2 | "2003 State Children's Health Insurance Program Chartbook" CD                      | 2003 |
| 2 | "Massachusetts Petition Fraud Caught on Camera" DVD                                | 2005 |
| 2 | "National Legislators' Symposium on Child Support" CD                              | 2003 |
| 2 | "Tuesday Morning" CD   | 2004 |
| 2 | "Speaker Thomas M. Finneran Annual Address to the Citizens of the Commonwealth" CD | 2004 |